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miliar to folklorists as given in a more extended and scientific manner by Boaz, Eells, and others, who have lived or visited in this region for the purpose of investigating these tribes. Not that the work of this author is not original, for it surely is, and well done at that, but the stories are either fragments of long tales or else an outline of such, for the average story-teller among the Indians knows but little else, and the full tales, taking often hours and even days to recite, are only to be had from the shaman.

The book makes a genuine contribution to our knowledge of these people, and the unique manner of telling reminds one of "Uncle Remus" and his animal tales, as the writer quaintly pictures "The Talking Pine" near the edge of the "Lake of the Mountains" swaying in the breeze, whispering the tales to T'solo the Wanderer.

Like most stories of the kind, it deals with the primitive conception of nature and nature manifestations. The author truly says, "The general idea of the white people seems to be that Indians believe in one supreme being or 'Great Spirit,' which corresponds to the God of our Bible. This is not the case at all, for their religion is a mixture of Tah-mah-na-wis, or magic; Skallal-a-toots, or fairies, and Too-much, or devils, the evil spirits, coupled with a vast legendary lore of a purely mythical nature—fairy stories, in fact—of which 'Totem Tales' constitute a part."

The vocabulary and historical appendix contain much valuable information.

J. H. McCORMICK.

Old English Customs Extant at the Present Time, being An Account of Local Observances, Festival Customs, and Ancient Ceremonies yet Surviving in Great Britain. By P. H. Ditchfield, M. A., F. S. A. London, 1896: George Redway, Publisher.

The object of this work, as the author well says in his preface, "is to describe all the old customs which still linger on in the obscure nooks and corners of our native land (*i. e.*, England), or which have survived the march of progress in our busy city's life."

Many have been the books upon the folk-customs of bygone days, but the collection of those that exist in our very midst and in our own times seems to have escaped the attention, in a great measure, of the lover of the quaint and curious, or else have been passed over as of too little value upon which to spend our time; but in so doing we are recording facts that would otherwise be lost to posterity, for we recognize what our ancestors failed to do in this direction.

Taking up the customs in chronologic order as they occur in the feasts and festivals of the church, he traces them in variant form in each county or shire with painstaking care, giving the ancient origin where known, or the supposed origin when it is conjectural.

He attributes the decay and disappearance of many of these quaint usages to the agricultural depression, the invasion of railroads and other means of rapid transit, and to the different avenues of amusement afforded at the present day, all of which were lacking forty or fifty years ago and necessitated home amusement. He shows many of them to be derived from the old Norse and Druidical rites, as well as the early teachings of the Roman church. Mummers, Morris-dancers, masqueraders, and others, grotesquely costumed, frequented the streets upon many of these occasions and with song and dance begged of the people certain gifts appropriate to the season—either money, cakes, buns, or other trifles—in default of which certain punishments are visited upon the person so refusing.

The custom of rice-throwing at weddings is traced to the Chinese, the legend of its origin being a beautiful little story. Marriage, burial, and christening customs are given at some length, and form an interesting feature. The customs resulting from historical events, such as Royal Oak and Guy Fawkes days, are also noted. An appendix gives the Rhymes of the Berkshire Mumming Plays, as well as some of the Morris dances.

Taken as a whole, it is a valuable collection and a much-needed addition to our stock of such information; it is similar in many respects to the little volume, by Mrs Fanny D. Bergen, "Current Superstitions," published by the American Folk-Lore Society, save that it is more extensive and gives the origin of the custom as noted above.

The author quotes freely from the publications of the English Folk-Lore Society, and it is gratifying to note that this is another author added to a rapidly increasing list of writers who are beginning to recognize the value of the work done by these scientific societies and appreciate the publications of such societies. But one thing is lacking to make this volume a valuable work of reference; this is a tabulated list giving either the custom and the counties in which it exists or else the counties with the customs in each.

J. H. McCORMICK.